



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Bob Thorpe (R-6)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Thorpe Calls on Sheriff Penzone to Reverse Decision to Seize Disabled Veteran's Home

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX –Representative Bob Thorpe (R-6) today released the following statement on the seizure and sale of a disabled veteran's home:

"Less than a week before Independence Day, Jim Boerner, a disabled U.S. Air Force veteran, lost his home because he owed \$236 on his 2018 property taxes. Mr. Boerner of Mesa contacted the Maricopa County Call Center concerning his property taxes and was told that he had until June 30th to make the payment, which was identical to the information on his property tax statement. However, Sheriff Penzone's office began the property tax lien sale process on June 20th, ten days earlier than stated by Maricopa County.

"It's in the best interest of our local and state government agencies to help keep citizens living in their homes. Maricopa County Treasurer Royce Flora and I have repeatedly tried to contact Sheriff Penzone on Mr. Boerner's behalf, but Sheriff Penzone has not found the time to return our calls. It appears that Sheriff Penzone's action against Mr. Boerner commenced ten days too early, unveiling questionable policies and procedures within the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Penzone has the authority to halt this travesty of justice against Mr. Boerner, who served and personally sacrificed for our country. County Attorney Bill Montgomery is looking into whether the actions taken by Sheriff Penzone were legal, and I look forward to his determination.

"As a fellow public servant, I call upon Sheriff Penzone to do the right thing by taking a moment of his time to return our calls and work with us to quickly resolve this matter. We need to allow Mr. Boerner to pay his property taxes and continue living peacefully his home without fear of the heavy hand of government."

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